

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 31, 2003. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 4,462,612 to Dreyer et al.

Claims 2, 8-12 and 14-20 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Office Action mailed December 31, 2003, the Examiner states that the prior Advisory Action incorrectly indicated the status of claims 1, 3-7 and 13 as allowable because the amendment filed September 22, 2003 was not entered, and thus the indicated claims remain rejected as indicated in the final rejection mailed on July 16, 2003.

Pursuant to a teleconference with the Examiner, the Applicants' Representative informed the Examiner that Amendment "C" filed September 22, 2003 should have been entered upon the filing of the Request for Continued Examination Transmittal mailed November 14, 2003. A review of the Request for Continued Examination Transmittal reveals that Applicant requested the Examiner to consider the Amendment "C"/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on September 16, 2003 received in the Office on September 22, 2003, please see line 1a.i. of the Request for Continued Examination Transmittal.

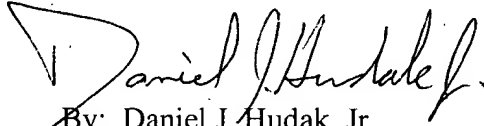
Applicants Amendment "C" contains a "Remarks" section which clearly presents arguments as to why the cited prior art reference cannot teach or suggest the present invention as claimed. Reconsideration of such is respectfully requested.

During the interview between Applicants' representative and the Examiner, the Examiner stated that in view of the fact that Applicants' Amendment "C" should have been entered, any response to this amendment other than a Notice of Allowance would not be a final action. Accordingly, the Applicant is grateful of such indication.

It is believed that once Amendment "C" has been properly entered and considered, all pending claims 1-20 should be allowed. A notice of such is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, a telephone call to the undersigned is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

HUDAK SHUNK & FARINE CO., L.P.A.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.", written in dark ink.

By: Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.

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